

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9900
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0866

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MASS, MPOL, PO, NATO, NL
SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION

REF: STATE 34978

1. DUTCH INFORM US THAT THEY ARE IN NO POSITION TO
CONTRIBUTE EQUIPMENT FOR PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION.
THEY WILL BE PLEASED OFFER POSSIBILITIES FOR TRAINING
OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY PERSONNEL BUT SEE DIFFICULTIES
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IN EVEN SUCH A LIMITED OFFER.

2. NATO AFFAIRS OFFICERS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY TELL
US THAT QUESTION OF DUTCH ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE
MILITARY HAS BEEN UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION HERE AND
WAS DISCUSSED AS LATE AS TODAY IN DEFENSE COUNCIL.
GON HAS BEEN UNABLE, HOWEVER, TO FIND ANY POSSIBILITY

FOR SUPPLY OF DEFENSE EQUIPMETN TO PORTUGAL. IN
ADDITION TO A LACK OF SUITABLE EQUIPMENT FOR TRANSFER,
DUTCH HAVE NO MECHANISM FOR BILATERAL MILITARY AID.
MFA OFFICIALS SAID THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS
TOTALLY OUT OF THE QUESTION.

3. BEST GON COULD DO WOULD BE TO OFFER TRAINING TO
PORTUGUESE MILITARY PERSONNEL. PORTUGUESE WERE ALREADY
ELIGIBLE FOR DUTCH SPONSORED TRAINING WHICH OPEN TO
ANY NATO COUNTRY. DUTCH WOULD ALSO BE RECEPTIVE TO IDEA
OF SOME SMALL SCALE SPECIAL TRAINING OF PORTUGUESE
IF THIS SHOULD BE DESIRED. THEY SEE PROBLEMS WITH
LANGUAGE. COST AND BURDEN OF TRANSLATION OF TRAINING
PROGRAMS FOR ONLY A HANDFUL OF PORUGUESE OFFICERS MIGHT
NOT BE WORTH THE CANDLE.

4. DUTCH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO
ASSIST SOUNDS MISERLY BUT HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE
TAKEN THAT WAY. MFA OFFICIALS SAID THAT DUTCH
CONSIDER THEMSELVES STRONG SUPPORTERS OF A VIABLE
EUROPEAN ORIENTED PORTUGAL AND WANTED TO BE COUNTED
AS SUCH. BUT UNFORTUNATELY CIRCUMSTANCES LIMITED
THEIR ASSISTANCE TO POLITICAL SUPPORT IN THE EC
AND IN ENCOURAGEMENT THEY CAN OFFER TO DUTCH POLITICAL
PARTIES AND TRADE UNIONS IN STRENGTHENING PORTUGUESE
INSTITUTIONS.
MCCLOSKEY

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